

Mr. DASCHLE. I think we can send up the second resolution.

VITIATION OF ACTION ON HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 122

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that third reading and final passage be vitiated with respect to House Joint Resolution 122.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1996

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the joint resolution.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 122) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the joint resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the joint resolution.

AMENDMENT NO. 3062

Mr. DOLE. I send an amendment to the desk modifying the text of the joint resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kansas [Mr. DOLE] proposes an amendment numbered 3062.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

That the following sums are hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and out of applicable corporate or other revenues, receipts, and funds, for the several departments, agencies, corporations, and other organizational units of Government for the fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 101. (a) Such amounts as may be necessary under the authority and conditions provided in the applicable appropriations Act for the fiscal year 1995 for continuing projects or activities including the costs of direct loans and loan guarantees (not otherwise specifically provided for in this joint resolution) which were conducted in the fiscal year 1995 and for which appropriations, funds, or other authority would be available in the following appropriations Acts:

The Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996, notwithstanding section 15 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956, section 701 of the United States Information and Educational Exchange Act of 1948, section 313 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 (Public Law 103-236), and section 53 of the Arms Control and Disarmament Act;

The Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 1996, notwithstanding section 504(a)(1) of the National Security Act of 1947;

The District of Columbia Appropriations Act, 1996;

The Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1996, notwithstanding section 10 of Public Law 91-672 and section 15(a) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956;

The Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996;

The Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996;

The Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1996, H.R. 2492;

The Department of Transportation Appropriations Act, 1996;

The Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Appropriations Act, 1996;

The Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996:

Provided, That whenever the amount which would be made available or the authority which would be granted in these Acts is greater than that which would be available or granted under current operations, the pertinent project or activity shall be continued at a rate for operations not exceeding the current rate.

(b) Whenever the amount which would be made available or the authority which would be granted under an Act listed in this section as passed by the House as of the date of enactment of this joint resolution, is different from that which would be available or granted under such Act as passed by the Senate as of the date of enactment of this joint resolution, the pertinent project or activity shall be continued at a rate for operations not exceeding the current rate or the rate permitted by the action of the House or the Senate, whichever is lower, under the authority and conditions provided in the applicable appropriations Act for the fiscal year 1995: *Provided*, That where an item is not included in either version or where an item is included in only one version of the Act as passed by both Houses as of the date of enactment of this joint resolution, the pertinent project or activity shall not be continued except as provided for in section 111 or 112 under the appropriation, fund, or authority granted by the applicable appropriations Act for the fiscal year 1995 and under the authority and conditions provided in the applicable appropriations Act for the fiscal year 1995.

(c) Whenever an Act listed in this section has been passed by only the House or only the Senate as of the date of enactment of this joint resolution, the pertinent project or activity shall be continued under the appropriation, fund, or authority granted by the one House at a rate for operations not exceeding the current rate or the rate permitted by the action of the one House, whichever is lower, and under the authority and conditions provided in the applicable appropriations Act for the fiscal year 1995: *Provided*, That where an item is funded in the applicable appropriations Act for the fiscal year 1995 and not included in the version passed by the one House as of the date of enactment of this joint resolution, the pertinent project or activity shall not be continued except as provided for in section 111 or 112 under the appropriation, fund, or authority granted by the applicable appropriations Act for the fiscal year 1995 and under the authority and conditions provided in the applicable appropriations Act for the fiscal year 1995.

SEC. 102. No appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 for the Department of Defense shall be used for new production of items not funded for production in fiscal year 1995 or

prior years, for the increase in production rates above those sustained with fiscal year 1995 funds, or to initiate, resume, or continue any project, activity, operation, or organization which are defined as any project, subproject, activity, budget activity, program element, and subprogram within a program element and for investment items are further defined as a P-1 line item in a budget activity within an appropriation account and an R-1 line item which includes a program element and subprogram element within an appropriation account, for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were not available during the fiscal year 1995: *Provided*, That no appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 for the Department of Defense shall be used to initiate multi-year procurements utilizing advance procurement funding for economic order quantity procurement unless specifically appropriated later.

SEC. 103. Appropriations made by section 101 shall be available to the extent and in the manner which would be provided by the pertinent appropriations Act.

SEC. 104. No appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 shall be used to initiate or resume any project or activity for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were not available during the fiscal year 1995.

SEC. 105. No provision which is included in an appropriations Act enumerated in section 101 but which was not included in the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 1995 and which by its terms is applicable to more than one appropriation, fund, or authority shall be applicable to any appropriation, fund, or authority provided in this joint resolution.

SEC. 106. Unless otherwise provided for in this joint resolution or in the applicable appropriations Act, appropriations and funds made available and authority granted pursuant to this joint resolution shall be available until (a) enactment into law of an appropriation for any project or activity provided for in this joint resolution, or (b) the enactment into law of the applicable appropriations Act by both Houses without any provision for such project or activity, or (c) December 15, 1995, whichever first occurs.

SEC. 107. Appropriations made and authority granted pursuant to this joint resolution shall cover all obligations or expenditures incurred for any program, project, or activity during the period for which funds or authority for such project or activity are available under this joint resolution.

SEC. 108. Expenditures made pursuant to this joint resolution shall be charged to the applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization whenever a bill in which such applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization is contained is enacted into law.

SEC. 109. No provision in the appropriations Act for the fiscal year 1996 referred to in section 101 of this joint resolution that makes the availability of any appropriation provided therein dependent upon the enactment of additional authorizing or other legislation shall be effective before the date set forth in section 106(c) of this joint resolution.

SEC. 110. Appropriations and funds made available by or authority granted pursuant to this joint resolution may be used without regard to the time limitations for submission and approval of apportionments set forth in section 1513 of title 31, United States Code, but nothing herein shall be construed to waive any other provision of law governing the apportionment of funds.

SEC. 111. Notwithstanding any other provision of this joint resolution, except section 106, whenever an Act listed in section 101 as passed by both the House and Senate as of the date of enactment of this joint resolution, does not include funding for an ongoing

project or activity for which there is a budget request, or whenever an Act listed in section 101 has been passed by only the House or only the Senate as of the date of enactment of this joint resolution, and an item funded in fiscal year 1995 is not included in the version passed by the one House, or whenever the rate for operations for an ongoing project or activity provided by section 101 for which there is a budget request would result in the project or activity being significantly reduced, the pertinent project or activity may be continued under the authority and conditions provided in the applicable appropriations Act for the fiscal year 1995 by increasing the rate for operations provided by section 101 to a rate for operations not to exceed one that provides the minimal level that would enable existing activities to continue. No new contracts or grants shall be awarded in excess of an amount that bears the same ratio to the rate for operations provided by this section as the number of days covered by this resolution bears to 366. For the purposes of the Act, the minimal level means a rate for operations that is reduced from the current rate by 25 percent.

SEC. 112. Notwithstanding any other provision of this joint resolution, except section 106, whenever the rate for operations for any continuing project or activity provided by section 101 or section 111 for which there is a budget request would result in a furlough of Government employees, that rate for operations may be increased to the minimum level that would enable the furlough to be avoided. No new contracts or grants shall be awarded in excess of an amount that bears the same ratio to the rate for operations provided by this section as the number of days covered by this resolution bears to 366.

SEC. 113. Notwithstanding any other provision of this joint resolution, except sections 106, 111, and 112, for those programs that had high initial rates of operation or complete distribution of funding at the beginning of the fiscal year in fiscal year 1995 because of distributions of funding to States, foreign countries, grantees, or others, similar distributions of funds for fiscal year 1996 shall not be made and no grants shall be awarded for such programs funded by this resolution that would impinge on final funding prerogatives.

SEC. 114. This joint resolution shall be implemented so that only the most limited funding action of that permitted in the resolution shall be taken in order to provide for continuation of projects and activities.

SEC. 115. The provisions of section 132 of the District of Columbia Appropriations Act, 1988, Public Law 100-202, shall not apply for this joint resolution. Included in the apportionment for the Federal Payment to the District of Columbia shall be an additional \$16,575,016 above the amount otherwise made available by this joint resolution, for reimbursement to the United States of funds loaned for certain capital improvement projects pursuant to Public Law 81-533, as amended; Public Law 83-364, as amended; Public Law 85-451, as amended; and Public Law 86-515, as amended, including interest as required thereby.

SEC. 116. Notwithstanding any other provision of this joint resolution, except section 106, the authority and conditions for the application of appropriations for the Office of Technology Assessment as contained in the conference report on the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1996, House Report 104-212, shall be followed when applying the funding made available by this joint resolution.

SEC. 117. Notwithstanding any other provision of this joint resolution, except section 106, any distribution of funding under the Rehabilitation Services and Disability Re-

search account in the Department of Education may be made up to an amount that bears the same ratio to the rate for operation for this account provided by this joint resolution as the number of days covered by this resolution bears to 366.

SEC. 118. Notwithstanding any other provision of this joint resolution, except section 106, the authorities provided under subsection (a) of section 140 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 (Public Law 103-236) shall remain in effect during the period of this joint resolution, notwithstanding paragraph (3) of said subsection.

SEC. 119. Notwithstanding any other provision of this joint resolution, except section 106, the amount made available to the Securities and Exchange Commission, under the heading Salaries and Expenses, shall include, in addition to direct appropriations, the amount it collects under the fee rate and offsetting collection authority contained in Public Law 103-352, which fee rate and offsetting collection authority shall remain in effect during the period of this joint resolution.

SEC. 120. Until enactment of legislation providing funding for the entire fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, for the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies, funds available for necessary expenses of the Bureau of Mines are for continuing limited health and safety and related research, materials partnerships, and minerals information activities; for mineral assessments in Alaska; and for terminating all other activities of the Bureau of Mines.

SEC. 121. Notwithstanding any other provision of this joint resolution, except section 106, funds for the Environmental Protection Agency shall be made available in the appropriation accounts which are provided in H.R. 2099 as reported on September 13, 1995.

SEC. 122. Notwithstanding any other provision of this joint resolution, except section 106, the rate for operations for projects and activities that would be funded under the heading "International Organizations and Conferences, Contributions to International Organizations" in the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996, shall be the amount provided by the provisions of sections 101, 111, and 112 multiplied by the ratio of the number of days covered by this resolution to 366.

SEC. 123. Notwithstanding any other provision of this joint resolution, except section 106, the rate for operations of the following projects or activities shall be only the minimum necessary to accomplish orderly termination:

Administrative Conference of the United States;

Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (except that activities to carry out the provisions of Public Law 104-4 may continue);

Interstate Commerce Commission; Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation;

Land and Water Conservation Fund, State Assistance; and

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Rural Abandoned Mine Program.

SEC. 124. COMPENSATION AND RATIFICATION OF AUTHORITY.—(a) Any Federal employees furloughed as a result of a lapse in appropriations, if any, after midnight November 13, 1995, until the enactment of this Act shall be compensated at their standard rate of compensation for the period during which there was a lapse in appropriations.

(b) All obligations incurred in anticipation of the appropriations made and authority granted by this Act for the purposes of main-

taining the essential level of activity to protect life and property and bring about orderly termination of government functions are hereby ratified and approved if otherwise in accord with the provisions of this Act.

TITLE II

SEC. 201. WAIVER OF REQUIREMENT FOR PARCHMENT PRINTING.

(a) WAIVER.—The provisions of sections 106 and 107 of title 1, United States Code, are waived with respect to the printing (on parchment or otherwise) of the enrollment of any of the following measures of the first session of the One Hundred Fourth Congress presented to the President after the enactment of this joint resolution:

- (1) A continuing resolution.
- (2) A debt limit extension measure.
- (3) A reconciliation bill.

(b) CERTIFICATION BY COMMITTEE ON HOUSE OVERSIGHT.—The enrollment of a measure to which subsection (a) applies shall be in such form as the Committee on House Oversight of the House of Representatives certifies to be a true enrollment.

SEC. 202. DEFINITIONS.

As used in this joint resolution:

(1) CONTINUING RESOLUTION.—The term "continuing resolution" means a bill or joint resolution that includes provisions making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 1996.

(2) DEBT LIMIT EXTENSION MEASURE.—The term "debt limit extension measure" means a bill or joint resolution that includes provisions increasing or waiving (for a temporary period or otherwise) the public debt limit under section 3101(b) of title 31, United States Code.

(3) RECONCILIATION BILL.—The term "reconciliation bill" means a bill that is a reconciliation bill within the meaning of section 310 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

SEC. . COMMITMENT TO A SEVEN-YEAR BALANCED BUDGET.

(a) The President and the Congress shall enact legislation in the first session of the 104th Congress to achieve a balanced budget not later than fiscal year 2002 as estimated by the Congressional Budget Office, and the President and the Congress agree that the balanced budget must protect future generations, ensure Medicare solvency, reform welfare, and provide adequate funding for Medicaid, education, agriculture, national defense, veterans, and the environment. Further, the balanced budget shall adopt tax policies to help working families and to stimulate future economic growth.

(b) The balanced budget agreement shall be estimated by the Congressional Budget Office based on its most recent current economic and technical assumptions, following a thorough consultation and review with the Office of Management and Budget, and other government and private experts.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 3062) was agreed to.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the joint resolution be read a third time, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

So, the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 122), as amended, was passed.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, that was the compromise language that would extend until December 15 the date agreed upon. In fact, I ask that a copy

of the resolution—I might just read it quickly. This is the agreement reached. I want to thank my colleague, Senator DASCHLE, and thank Senator EXON. Also, of course, I want to thank my colleague, Senator DOMENICI, and the others who have been working on this throughout the day and throughout yesterday. There have been Members on each side. I know Senator WARNER has been involved, as have others. But what we have agreed to now, in a bipartisan, nonpartisan way, I think, is a very satisfactory conclusion to what has been a rather tense situation the past several days.

(a) The President and the Congress shall enact legislation in the first session of the 104th Congress to achieve a balanced budget not later than fiscal year 2002 as estimated by the Congressional Budget Office, and the President and the Congress agree that the balanced budget must protect future generations, ensure Medicare solvency, reform welfare, and provide adequate funding for Medicaid, education, agriculture, national defense, veterans, and the environment. Further, the balanced budget shall adopt tax policies to help working families and to stimulate future economic growth.

(b) The balanced budget agreement shall be estimated by the Congressional Budget Office based on its most recent current economic and technical assumptions, following a thorough consultation and review with the Office of Management and Budget, and other Government and private experts.

We also take care of back pay in this resolution. And the continuing resolution will be at 75 percent. I will ask the chairman of the Appropriation Committee to explain this in more detail. And it will extend until December 15.

I would be happy to yield to the distinguished Democratic leader.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able minority leader is recognized.

Mr. DASCHLE. I thank the President pro tempore.

I want to commend the distinguished majority leader for his leadership in the effort he has made in the last 24 hours to achieve this agreement. I also commend the distinguished Senator from New Mexico, our chairman of the Budget Committee, for his effort. It was the Senator from New Mexico and the Senator from Nebraska, our ranking member, who have done a great deal of work in the last couple of days to get us to this point. I appreciate very much their efforts.

I have discussed this with the President. He fully supports it and will sign it. As the majority leader has indicated, this resolution will allow us to continue to fund the Government until the 15th of December at a level of 75 percent. It reopens the Government and gets people back to work. It reaffirms our commitment to balancing the budget, it spells out our commitment to protecting our priorities—Medicare and Medicaid, education, the environment, defense, agriculture, and veterans. There will be consultation on economic assumptions with the Congressional Budget Office and the Office of Management and Budget and private

experts. It really presents the framework for negotiations.

Now that this is behind us, I think the time for us to negotiate the real balanced budget is at hand. This gives us that opportunity. I am very pleased that we were able to reach the agreement tonight.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, before I yield to the Senator from Oregon, Senator HATFIELD, chairman of the Appropriations Committee, let me also thank Senator LOTT who has been on the telephone the last hour or two checking with Members who had problems.

Also, Senator GORTON who helped us with some editorial comment and corrected a few things which were not quite accurate.

Senator MACK and Senator COCHRAN were there yesterday afternoon and again today helping us bring this together.

And, of course, Senator WARNER has been on the floor and in the meetings. We appreciate that very much. Coming from Virginia he has a number of concerns about Federal employees.

As I said earlier, the Senator from New Mexico deserves great credit. I think it is fair to say it indicates again if we can reach out we can come together.

I think we preserved a very important principle: a balanced budget in 7 years. That was very important to Members on this side and I think to a number of Members on the other side.

Also, obviously the Presiding Officer has been in the thick of this from the start. We appreciate the President pro tempore's discussions, and a number of other colleagues, Senator MCCAIN, who is not on the floor, and Senator PRESSLER, who was there for a few hours this afternoon. We had a lot of people come and go and a lot of input.

I yield now to the chairman of the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, will the distinguished Senator yield for 30 seconds?

I also think a number of staff people, including Bill Hoagland and John Hilley, deserve special commendation for the terrific work they have done. They and many other members of the staff have worked for the last couple of weeks to achieve this. I appreciate very much their effort and all the work they have done to make this happen.

On our side, Senator REID and Senator DORGAN and Members of our leadership have also been extremely helpful and demonstrated a significant level of leadership.

Let me also thank Leon Panetta and members of the White House for the cooperation and tremendous effort that they also made to make this happen tonight.

A number of people are responsible for the fact we are here tonight. I think it is fair to say we have shared in a great deal of effort to make it happen, and we are very pleased.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senator HATFIELD is recognized.

Mr. HATFIELD. Mr. President, I, first, would like to add my word of congratulations to our leadership, Senator DOLE, Senator DASCHLE, the chairman and ranking member of the Budget Committee, and others who have been very much involved.

Let me just say, we now have 6 appropriations bills of the 13 signed. So this continuing resolution will cover the seven bills not signed. I think it is very important to note we have now extended until December 15. We must act upon these remaining bills in order to get agreement between the White House and the Congress. And the most important bill, in my view, is the Labor-HHS. That is the only appropriations bill the Senate has refused to consider, and we must move on that bill in order to get it covering the important programs of education, health and public services.

Also, for those programs that have been terminated by either the House or the Senate, this will fund those programs at 75 percent of level until that date. Also, it restores the back pay. That may be the best news of all for some of those who are getting down to the end of their resources and need this assurance they will be paid for those days they have been furloughed.

So I want to, again, say this is a great occasion to see this impasse brought to an end, and through the extraordinary bipartisan effort of both sides of the aisle and the White House, this achievement is very significant.

I thank the Chair.

Mr. DOMENICI addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able Senator from New Mexico is recognized.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, this agreement will allow all Federal workers to return to their jobs tomorrow morning and all Government operations will return to normal. This is not a win for Republicans or Democrats, this is a win for the American people.

This will ensure the first balanced budget plan in more than a quarter century. Up until today, Republicans in Congress had passed and committed to a 7-year balanced budget, but after today, the President is now on board. He and his administration are now committed to achieving a balanced budget in 7 years using the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office. While this is a giant first step, there is a lot of work to getting it done, and I pledge my full effort to try to get this done in the next 3 to 4 weeks.

I yield the floor.

• Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, I am concerned that we are in the process of jimmying the numbers so that President Clinton can spend tens of billions of dollars that we do not have on programs that we cannot afford.

It appears that we are laying the predicate for assuming away the deficit problem.

I intend to oppose any budget which increases total spending above the level we set out in our budget.●

Mr. CONRAD addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The distinguished Senator from North Dakota is recognized.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I yield to the ranking member of the Budget Committee, Senator EXON, who is seeking to make a statement.

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, I thank my friend from North Dakota. I just want to add my voice of thanks for the true bipartisan effort that was made, especially over the last 2 days, certainly under the effective leadership of Senator DASCHLE, on this side, and Senator DOLE on the other, in cooperation with my friend and colleague, the chairman of the Budget Committee, Senator DOMENICI, the excellent staffs on both sides, Bill Hoagland on the Republican side and Bill Dauster over on our side, and all associated therewith. We came to many points on the cliff when I was not sure we were ever going to jump across, but we did on many, many occasions.

I am very pleased with the fact that, as Senator DOMENICI just said, it was a bipartisan effort. We were not trying to make political points, we were trying to reach an agreement to balance the budget in 7 years that this Senator has stood for for a long, long time and accommodate as many as we could.

The main thing, of course, is that finally, as I have been suggesting for the last few days, what we did was have a breakthrough today, finally, by extending the argument, if you will, to December 15. That means that everybody can go back to work, if we can get this passed in both the House and the Senate this evening, and the Government can return to full functioning by tomorrow morning. This has not been easy, but it has been rewarding, once again, that after a lot of effort and understanding among friends who sometimes have different views on how we get from point A to point B, we do get together and accomplish what we want to do.

Mr. President, I simply say and emphasize that while this is a good agreement, it really requires a lot of heavy lifting between now and the 15th day of December, because we have all of these contentious areas remaining with regard to how we do meet the 7-year balanced budget goal and the different parts of the budget and how we allocate the funds are going to be contentious.

I just hope that the bipartisan spirit that brought this short-term agreement together can be carried on to a considerable degree with the heavy lifting that we have yet to do.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following joint resolution was ordered placed on the calendar on November 18, 1995:

H.J. Res. 123. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. CAMPBELL:

S. 1424. A bill to redesignate the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument as a national park, to establish the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area, to establish the Curecanti National Recreation Area, to establish the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park Complex, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CAMPBELL:

S. 1424. A bill to redesignate the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument as a national park, to establish the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area, to establish the Curecanti National Recreation Area, to establish the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park Complex, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

THE BLACK CANYON NATIONAL PARK COMPLEX ACT OF 1996

● Mr. CAMPBELL. Madam President, I introduce a piece of legislation that has been a long time coming; to the State of Colorado and in particular, the western slope of my State, as well as to myself.

Today, I am introducing legislation to create the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park Complex. This represents, in my view, an innovative approach to protecting unique natural resources for future generations in the most fiscally responsible manner possible.

Madam President, this legislation does far more than simply create a new national park from what is now a national monument on the western slope of Colorado. This legislation establishes a cooperative approach to managing this natural resource and calls for all affected resource management agencies in the area, to play key collaborative roles.

Madam President, I want to stress that equally important to what this legislation does, is what it does not do: this legislation does not require additional Federal expenditures, it does not require additional land acquisitions, and the collective management approach that this legislation creates does not in any way require, imply, or contemplate an attempt by the Federal Government to usurp State water rights and State water law.

The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture will manage the entire area as it should be managed—as a single, interrelated and inseparable unit, connected by the magnificence of the Gunnison River itself.

Establishment of the complex will afford the Secretaries the opportunity to share both fiscal and human resources in the administration and management of this unique resource. This legislation will eliminate duplicative management operations and form a coordinated, streamlined and fiscally responsible management structure.

Implementation of this act will cost next to nothing. It is good business. No land acquisitions will be needed, no new areas will be created and this will not be an additional burden to the taxpayer. In fact, implementation of this act will save money by enabling the agencies to cooperate and share resources to a much greater extent than the current management allows.

Beginning at the upper most reaches of the proposed complex, this legislation will create the Curecanti National Recreation Area. This area has a long history of being operated by the National Park Service and the Bureau of Reclamation as a widely popular recreation area. The new Curecanti National Recreation Area will encompass three lakes created by the three dams on the Gunnison River which form the heart of the area. Together, these lakes are a recreationalist's paradise and a fisherman's heaven, regardless of the season.

Within the recreation area will be created the Curecanti Archaeological District. This area contains prehistoric sites dating as far back as 10,000 years. These unique sites may provide dramatic information that will significantly augment our knowledge of early human occupation of the high mountain valleys in the mountains of Colorado. New chapters will be added to what is known about southwestern archaeology.

This legislation will also establish the Denver and Rio Grande National Historic Site at Cimarron, within the recreation area. This site is a monument to the talents of the early mountain railroad builders and is a focal point to illustrate the crucial role of the narrow gauge railroad in realizing the development of western Colorado and the entire west.

The Gunnison National Forest forms the other boundary of the national park complex. This forest offers a wide variety of recreational opportunities as well as incredible scenic views. Portions of the forest have been included within the complex and will be managed in concert with the other resources in this area.

What is now the Gunnison National Monument lies immediately upstream of the recreation area. Visitors to this wonderful site describe this resource with adjectives such as gorgeous, awesome, and spectacular. Everyone who has visited this 2,000 foot deep, nearly impenetrable canyon go on to say that